

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12 are allowed. By this Amendment, claims 1-6 and 8-13 are amended, and claim 7 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1-6 and 8-13 are amended for form. Claims 3 and 13 are amended to include features of original claim 7. Claim 11 is amended to be consistent with the amendments to claim 3. No new matter is added.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 1, 2, 6, 8, 10 and 12 are allowed and that claims 5, 7, 9 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. As discussed above, independent claims 3 and 13 are amended to include features of allowable claim 7.

The Office Action rejects claims 3, 4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over JP A 2002-078996 to Hidetaka et al. (hereinafter Hidetaka). The rejection is rendered moot by the amendments to claims 3 and 13.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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